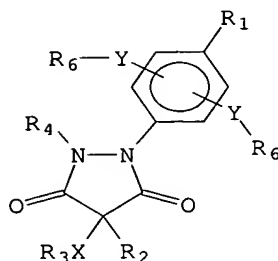


Abstract

The present invention relates to optionally substituted compounds of the formula I or a salts thereof;



(I)

wherein R₁ is O or S, R₂ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₁₀ organic group attached by a carbon atom, X is H, O, OO, S or SS R₃ is absent where X=H, is hydrogen or is a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group, R₄ is a hetero- or homo-cyclic aryl group, optionally substituted with a further group R₅, one Y group is S and the other is either H (in which case only one R₆ group is present) or S; and R₆ is, independently, an organic group of molecular weight up to around 500 amu. The invention also provides compositions comprising such compounds and methods of treatment comprising administration of such compositions.